Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station reports performance excellence

For the 2017/18 Fiscal Year, ending March 31, 2018, Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS) has recorded its best operational and performance results since 1994.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015/16, the Station extensively restructured its performance improvement program to concentrate a specific focus on safety, equipment reliability, training and building a culture of prevention. This shift brought the Station’s program more closely in line with the industry’s proven formula for plant improvement, and involved PLNGS staff modelling and adopting industry best practices across a broad cross section of plant activities. The assistance and knowledge transfer of operational experience from the global nuclear industry related to these best practices has been a defining feature and backbone of this effort. Taken together these advances have put PLNGS on a defined roadmap of continuous and sustained improvement.

NB Power also completed a scheduled maintenance outage in May. To improve equipment reliability, approximately 10,000 technical maintenance activities were performed on equipment and systems over the month-long outage. Maintenance outages are regularly scheduled to coincide with lower seasonal electricity demands and increased water flow in New Brunswick’s hydro system.

“We know that the best plants in the world are the safest plants in the world,” said Gaëtan Thomas, NB Power President and CEO. “This year’s impressive performance numbers at PLNGS are evidence of a talented team, and their commitment to safety, nuclear excellence, the community and this province. Our PLNGS Team knows how important they are to efficiently and effectively meeting the province’s energy needs.”

Proven performance: NB Power’s Point Lepreau — Success by the numbers

Key Performance Indicators:

- 7.8 million person hours without a Loss Time Accident (LTA)
- 89.27% Net Capacity Factor exceeds target of 88.8%, and is best result since 2007
- 2.24% Forced Loss Rate (FLR) is well below the 5% target, and represents the best FLR for the Station since 2006. (FLR is the ratio of all power reductions compared to reference generation, which were not scheduled 28 days in advance.)
- At 91% on the nuclear industry’s Equipment Reliability Index (ERI), the Station has achieved its best score since it started tracking this industry measure in 1995. (ERI is a 100 point cross-functional index that assesses the health and status of Station’s operations and equipment reliability through 18 sub-indicators.)
- Annual net electrical production of 5.16TWh (Terawatt Hours) of low carbon electrical production is the best production performance of the Station since 1994. PLNGS production represents approximately 47 per cent of the total net generation from NB Power generating stations in FY 2017/18.